

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 21;

Please amend claims 19 and 28-36 as follows:

1-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A process for oxidizing starch comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

20. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of copper (II) chloride, copper (II) sulfate, copper (II) phosphate, copper (II) nitrate salt, copper (II) acetate salt, copper (II) bromide salt and combinations thereof.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the catalyst is present in an amount from about 100 ppb to about 1000 pbb, based on dry substance of the starch.

23. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the divalent copper ions are enhanced by one or more of calcium, vanadium, manganese, iron or tungsten ions.

24. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the starch is a potato starch or tapioca starch.

25. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the hydrogen peroxide is used in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 5.0 wt.% based on dry substance of starch.
26. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the hydrogen peroxide is used in an amount ranging from 0.05 to 2.5 wt.% based on dry substance of starch.
27. (Previously Added) A process according to claim 19, wherein the derivative of the starch is a cationic, anionic or amphoteric starch.
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28. (Currently Amended) An oxidized starch obtainable by a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.
29. (Currently Amended) A binder in paper coatings or surface coatings comprising a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.
30. (Currently Amended) An adhesive comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

31. (Currently Amended) A warp yarn sizing comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

32. (Currently Amended) A coating for glass fibers comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

33. (Currently Amended) An abrasive paper additive comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

34. (Currently Amended) A food product additive comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

35. (Currently Amended) A blanket adhesive comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen

peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

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36. (Currently Amended) An emulsifying agent for an alkyl succinic anhydride, alkyl ketene dimer or alkyl isocyanate comprising an oxidized starch derived from a process comprising treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch, or a derivative thereof, with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises divalent copper ions in an amount from about 5ppb to about 5000ppb based on dry substance of starch.

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Please add new claims 37-38, as follows:

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37. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein a pH of between 6.5 and 9.0 is maintained during the process.

38. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein a stable, oxidized starch product is obtained within thirty minutes.

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